



Egremont News

Issue 77

September, 2014

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter.

Selectmen:

A huge thank you to Margot Trout for her donation of a painting of the Burdsall Farm to Congressman Neal's Office. Congressman Neal is trying to gather a piece of art work from each town in his district to hang in his Springfield Office. Below is Egremont's contribution.



The Board welcomes the following new Town Officials:

Paul Lisi, Town Accountant
Ben Pigott, Full-time Police

Officer

Eric Swanson, Finance

Committee.

Janis Martinson-Sagarin is leaving our Planning Board effective September 1. We thank her for her years of dedicated service to the town.

On October 6 the Town will be holding a special town meeting at 6pm at the Mt. Everett High School Cafeteria. Babysitting services will be offered for approximately 2 hours. If you need babysitting services please contact town hall. There will be several financial and governance issues that require the voters' attention.

The users of the dog park at French Park are seeking donations to help with the costs of the removal of the feces. Please make your donations

at Town Hall. A user has built a very attractive box to house the donations.

In response to numerous complaints from residents, the town has stenciled 25 mph speed limit on Sheffield Road in hopes of slowing down traffic. The Board of Selectmen and Police Department want to remind all that speed limits are posted for the safety of all residents and visitors. Please obey all posted signs and also remember to watch for pedestrians, cyclists, and horseback riders on our roads and share the road with them.



ECO-TIP

Buy a programmable thermostat, and in cool months, set it lower when you're at work or asleep. The Nest learning thermostat is expensive, but if it works for you, it could save you a bundle (<https://nest.com/thermostat/life-with-nest-thermostat/>).

Sustainability Coordinator:

The end of the fiscal year data is in and there is great news to report on the recycling and trash front! Drum roll please.....

Thanks to the efforts of so many of you in our community we can now boast having the second best recycling rate in Southern Berkshire County. And even with a slightly growing population we have been able to reduce our annual trash tonnage over the past two years by an amazing 65 tons.

Why should we take the time to think about

trash? Because reducing our trash and recycling saves resources, energy, space in landfills, reduces greenhouse gas production and saves the town money in hauling and disposal fees.

We are very fortunate in Egremont to have many easy to use services which have gotten us to this point. Here's a quick overview:

Recycling: Whether you take your trash to the Egremont Transfer Station or whether you hire a private hauler it is the law to recycle. Bottles, cans and certain plastics must be separated from the regular trash. Clean paper and cardboard must also be separated for recycling. For a complete list of materials that are recyclable go to <http://springfieldmrf.org>. Come into town hall for a free recycling bin to make separating trash super easy.

Swap Shop: Many folks take items they no longer want and bring it to the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station for the chance of a second home. This extends the life of products while greatly reducing our trash. This service is meant for items that have some value – please no drop-offs of broken appliances, junk and absolutely no upholstered furniture as a way of avoiding the regular furniture disposal fee.

Goodwill: Usually on the third Saturday of the month the Goodwill truck is parked in front of town hall. They accept a multitude of items for either resale in their shops or for recycling or repurposing. Go to <http://goodwill-berkshires.com/DonationGuidelines2012.pdf> for a complete list.

Sharps: Egremont is one of the few towns in Berkshire County which offers a sharps collection program. The locked drop box is located at the transfer station. All material must be placed in an approved sharps container - please no loose needles. The transfer station operator will provide you with a container for free.

Community Compost Bin: Our community compost bin at the transfer station is the talk of the Commonwealth (well, at least in the trash world it is) and many other towns are now following in our lead. Collecting kitchen scraps like coffee grinds, egg shells, and vegetable waste is easy and when turned and aged produces free compost for our residents to use in their gardens. Come in to town hall for a free compost bucket.

Judging from the hard data compiled from our trash receipts last year we have a lot to be

proud of. But there is always room for improvement. Let's not have the second best recycling rate in Southern Berkshire County – let's shoot for first. Let's continue to make reductions in our trash tonnage with more recycling and composting. Let's demonstrate that even the simplest of efforts can make a difference. Bravo to you all!

Board of Health:

Do you have an outlet filter on your septic tank? If so, has it been cleaned lately? Chances are if your septic system has been installed or has had a Title 5 inspection in the past ten years it does. Like most filters which are used to separate heavier particles from liquids septic tank filters perform a similar task. They are there to keep solids from entering or clogging the lines in your leach field to extend the life of the system. And just like most filters if they are not cleaned periodically they can become blocked. To avoid septic effluent from backing up into your home (and honestly who doesn't??) it is extremely important to perform this simple task.

Here is the easy "do it yourself method" for cleaning a septic filter: open the manhole cover to your septic tank. Wearing rubber gloves remove the filter and hose it off inside the tank using the stream head on your garden hose. Place filter back in the slot and cover tank.

Don't feel much like doing this important work yourself? You can have a septic hauler do it for you. Check your records to see when you had the septic tank pumped and while he's out there you may want to have the tank pumped too. Rule of thumb as far as when to pump your tank is every three years. The frequency depends on usage (full-time resident vs. part time) and how many people live there.

The Board of Health will be sending a reminder postcard to homeowners who have septic tank filters to clean them. If you are unsure you have one or if you have any other septic system questions please give Juliette Haas at the Board of Health a call at (413) 528-0182 x 22.

ECO-TIP

Microbeads (found in hand sanitizers, body wash, facial scrub, even toothpaste) are getting into our waterways, where they are ingested by wildlife. Check the labels of these products and avoid purchasing them.

Egremont Water Commissioners

The Water Department has a new clerk - Will Brinker. He is available at Town Hall Monday - Friday from 7 to 3; telephone 528-0182 ext 17. We wish Jack Muskrat well in his retirement. The new billing system is now in place. Meters will be read the first week every month. A new billing structure was adopted by the Commission; the new structure will be more equitable based on actual usage of water. Interest charges will be instituted in accordance with state law and assessed on past due bills beginning with the October billing.

ECO-TIP

Moldy cellar? Combine essential oils of cinnamon and clove in a nebulizer. This delivers the oils in a mist, and the droplets adhere to surfaces. Don't stay in the room, and keep cats out. Run nebulizer for half an hour at a time, several times a day, for a week or two.

French Park Trails:



The Greenagers are shown putting a bridge across the stream in French Park. It connects the two segments of a new trail in the Park: "Sidewalk in the Woods". Terminals of the trail are near the park's pavilion and across from the Prospect Lake Park entrance on Prospect Lake Road. The trail runs parallel to the road for about half a mile.

Dave Johnson, Genis Melendez-Delaney, and Cheryl Reynolds contributed thirty two hours to preparing the trail. Genis rescued two hundred fern plants in the process. In addition to adding another trail for those who like to walk in the woods, this trail allows road pedestrians to get off the asphalt and away from vehicle traffic. For those who want a longer walk, the trail connects with other park trails in two places.

All this work was sanctioned by the French Park Committee and the Board of Selectmen. This was the third summer that The Greenagers have worked in the park completing three stream crossings and renewing previously existing trails. Best way to maintain the trails now and in the future? Get out and walk 'em!

Thanks to all involved in this trail blazing work.

Council on Aging:

Your Council On Aging will be hosting the first of several movie afternoons on Wednesday, October 1st at 4:00pm at the Egremont Village Inn in South Egremont. This first movie showing will be "Living to 90 and Beyond". There will be a light supper after the movie consisting of soup, salad and french bread. The cost is \$10. Please RSVP no later than Friday, September 26 at 3:00pm to the Town Hall and make your payment to the Town of Egremont.

The first Wednesday of each month for the next six months, your Council On Aging will hold a similar function at the Egremont Village Inn. Please watch for further details.

Fire Department:

ACTIVITIES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

9:00 am 7/1 call #71 Lakeside Dr. Medical

8:28 am 7/2 call #72 Rt. 23 & Button Ball Ln.
Motor Vehicle Accident

2:37 pm 7/2 call #73 Shun Toll Rd. Alarm

3:01 pm 7/2 call #74 Undermountain Rd.

Alarm

4:30 pm 7/2 call #75 Town of Mt. Washington
Tree on wires

8:45 pm 7/2 call #76 Town of Mt. Washington
Medical

2:00 pm 7/6 call #77 Town of Mt. Washington
Medical

6:45 pm 7/7 call #78 Millard Rd. Medical

2:38 pm 7/10 call #79 Ridge Rd. Medical

2:43 pm 7/12 call #80 Baldwin Hill N/S Alarm

3:14 pm 7/13 call #81 Mearns Way Medical

4:39 pm 7/13 call #82 Prospect Lake Rd. Medical

5:32 am 7/16 call #83 Ridge Rd. Medical

12:55 pm 7/17 call #84 Westerhook Rd. Medical

7:03 pm 7/17 call #85 Taconic Ln. Alarm

3:28 am 7/23 call #86 Main St. Medical

7:38 pm 7/23 call #87 Town of Great Barrington
Structure Fire

10:28 am 7/24 call #88 Ridge Rd. Medical
 8:24 pm 7/26 call #89 Town of Mt. Washington
 Alarm
 12:45 am 7/27 call #90 Mt. Washington Rd.
 Motor Vehicle Accident
 11:12 pm 7/27 call #91 Hillsdale Rd. Medical
 2:19 am 7/28 call #92 Main St. Medical
 10:04 pm 7/31 call #93 Millard Rd. Medical
 9:45 am 8/1 call #94 Millard Rd. Medical
 3:31 am 8/6 call #95 Main St. Medical
 8:50 pm 8/7 call #96 Greenwood Circle
 Medical
 2:26 pm 8/10 call #97 Main St.
 Motor Vehicle Accident
 3:23 pm 8/11 call #98 Hillsdale Rd. Medical
 8:55 am 8/11 call #99 Creamery Rd. Medical
 4:17 am 8/14 call #100 Baldwin Hill S.
 Medical
 8:42 am 8/20 call #101 Hickory Hill Rd.
 Medical

This summer we also tested our large and small diameter Hose, tested our Draft Hydrants and had a couple of Movie Nights at French Park for the kids.

Pictured below, Brayden King, age 21 months, attends the Southern Berkshire Childcare Program in Sheffield. On June 12th, the Young Toddler classroom visited the South Egremont Fire Station for a field trip. Fireman Jim Olmstead and Fireman Ed Rossi spent the morning with the children showing them the fire trucks, and sharing milk and donuts. When the children left they each received goodie bags to take home. Thank you Jim and Ed for your time and generosity.



Board of Assessors:

Due Dates: Real Estate Statutory Tax Exemptions and Tax Abatements due to the use of property as Forest, Agricultural, or Recreational Land.

The deadline for submitting applications for property owners qualifying as senior, veteran or their surviving spouse or minor, and the blind is October 1, 2014.

Tax abatements for property used as forest, agricultural/horticultural, or recreational land applications must be in by October first to have your 2015 Tax bill correct.

If you have any questions please contact the Assessors' office at 528-0182, Ext. 14. Our Town Hall office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. You may also email us at assessors@egremont-ma.gov.

WiredWest Broadband:

Recently, Gov. Patrick has signed a bill providing \$50 million as seed money to provide broadband connections to 45 of what are considered to be underserved towns mostly in Western Mass. The installation of fiber optic cable in the 42 towns Wired West was created to help, will cost an estimated \$100 million and the state expects the 45 towns to find a way to produce the \$50 million needed for the installation of the last mile to the homes of Egremont's and the other towns' users.

WiredWest is working to develop a method to finance the installation in a manner which will allow the build-out as it is known, without the towns having to burden their tax bases further than they already are. Assuming that the MBI (Mass Broadband Institute), which is the State's chosen vehicle to disperse the \$50 million seed money, will follow the 42 town's wishes and work with WiredWest every resident in each of the 42 towns will be wired for broadband.

I can assure you that Egremont is determined that when broadband is installed in Egremont in whatever form it takes all of the residents will be connected to a broadband connection.

Egremont Historical Commission

Please welcome Gregg Siter to the Commission. His knowledge of the Town's history, and his family roots in the community will be of great value to our work.

Margaret Cherin continues with our SHRAB grant and the laborious task of shelf reading every object in the Archives, (thank you Margaret)! as we continue to make the Archives an attractive and interesting destination for visitors and researchers.

Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday, 11am, October 11th Meet The Colonel. Jim Parrish from the NPS (and a Commission member), and local historian Gary Leveille will give a talk on Egremont in the 1930's. How did we become an historic tourist destination? Who was "The Colonel" Hugh Smiley; and what was his enormous contribution to the look and style of Egremont today. This talk will be the first held on the 2nd floor of the newly refurbished Archives room where we hope to host many more.

Sunday, 3pm, October 12th. Come as you Were. The EHC was founded on October 12, 1974, so on October 12, 2014 to celebrate our 40th birthday we are hosting a "Come As You Were" party at the Egremont Village Inn from 3 to 6. 1974 Retro wardrobe encouraged, but not essential for entry, but the outfit will win a prize. Cider, sherry, and donuts will be served. Cash bar will be available.

TATTOO INVITES YOU



And please, on November 4th Vote YES for Article 5. The Community Preservation Act is a very important funding mechanism for the work that this commission does. Your vote invests in this legacy, protects our architecture, and builds our archives. Thank you.



Egremont, England celebrates their second fair with the Egremontsters. Last year,

we sent them our town flag which flew from a pirate ship on the shores of the Mersey.

Egremont Free Library

Egremont Free Library was bustling with activity this summer. Museum passes were a huge hit. It was gratifying to see so many smiling faces return with stories of taking family and friends to Norman Rockwell, The Clark, Berkshire Museum, Hancock Shaker Village...the list goes on. We'll be adding Chesterwood to our museum pass list next year. It's a valuable service that EFL (and other libraries) offer to our patrons.

As of July 1, Egremont Free Library began its transition to joining CW MARS. CW MARS is a shared network among libraries in Western and Central Massachusetts. What does this mean? When you search for books, audio books, DVDs, etc. in the CW MARS system, you will see Egremont Free Library's catalog. You may also request books (audio books, DVDs, etc.) be delivered via interlibrary loan to Egremont Free Library should EFL not have what you're looking for. I will send an announcement as to when this service goes "live." We're still transitioning from the old system, so we're not quite there yet. This shared system gives you access to hundreds of thousands of library items throughout Western and Central Massachusetts. It's one of the best shared library systems in the country.

Stay tuned for announcements regarding new programs at Egremont Free Library: Lego Club, iPad tutorials, more game nights... just to name a few.

As always, I welcome suggestions, comments and compliments. You may reach me at EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov. Call me at 528-1474 or stop by 1 Buttonball Lane and visit your library. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Community Preservation Act Steering Committee:

This committee is charged to present the facts on what the Community Preservation Act is, how it raises funds, and what its impact would mean to the Town. We are using the town website, our newsletters, and the October tax bill, as well as other forums to reach everyone in the community prior to your vote on November 4th. We have begun to address here the five questions that we hear the most about this law and its impact. If you have questions, please send them to Town Hall while we continue our work.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 10th 7:00pm at the No. Egremont Fire Station. It is open to the public.

Q1: How much will it cost me? The Community Preservation Act is a surcharge on your property tax. The amount varies. You may access information on the Town website (www.egremont-ma.gov) where you will find a list of property valuations, and CPA's projected rate for your property. If you do not have internet service, please call Town Hall (413-528-0182) and they can tell you. Note: For the average home of \$350,000 the annual cost would be \$90.

Q2: Why 3%? One of the reasons that CPA is of interest to our community is that the state matches CPA funds by a percentage based on the surcharge we collect. A 3% surcharge receives the largest percentage of state funds. While there is no guarantee, the least amount awarded by the state was 50%, historically 100% is the norm for 3% towns. While taking no position beyond its financial value to the town, the Finance Committee determined that 3% is the most advantageous financial position the town could take.

Q3: Can the CPA throw us into debt? CPA is structured for capital expenditures. CPA can build a soccer field, it cannot fund mowing. It can restore an historic building, it cannot pay for heat. It can build ADA compliant entrances for the elderly, it cannot shovel the walks. Being aware of this, all projects will be vetted to avoid unfunded maintenance costs. However, just as the town can borrow money against future tax revenues, the CPA can also recommend raising money to fund capital projects against projected revenues. This is not a recommended practice. Most importantly, no CPA project of any kind, either immediate or projected, can spend or borrow without being reviewed by the finance committee and approved at town meeting by the voters.

Q4: Can the Selectmen use CPA to fund its own projects In a word, no. The Selectboard will have one seat on a panel with five to nine other members. MGL requires four seats be allocated to the Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Historical Commission; this committee would recommend a

member of the Agricultural Committee, Council on Aging, and two members of the public be seated.

The CPA committee must by law do three things: develop a community preservation plan, which would be similar to the town's master plan; maintain records of its work, and, most importantly, review and recommend to the town expenditures of CPA tax moneys.

The Egremont Bylaws state Finance Committee members, to maintain their impartiality, cannot sit on any other board. This was discussed, but any expenditure undertaken by the town must be presented to the Finance Committee for review and CPA will be no exception to that rule.

Q5: Why not just go to town meeting with our projects? You could and still can. Not every project will meet CPA criteria. However, if CPA is approved, we will have the state's matching funds. Secondly, the CPA committee will be vetting proposed projects, ensuring a good idea is thought through financially, and has practical application before coming to town meeting. This offers more complex projects and smaller projects both, thoughtful support in development and presentation before financial review and the town floor.

In Egremont, it seems clear that the moneys could be spent on fixing up the library and the schoolhouse, acquiring more farmland, if it's available, constructing affordable housing, and helping veterans and the elderly live in place; building or rebuilding facilities at French Park, Prospect Lake and Jug End, as well as upgrade our Village Centers. All projects the town might wish to consider.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board soon will lose our chair and valued member, because Janis Martinson Sagarin has resigned September 1 when she begins her new job in Cambridge, MA. We wish her well, but we certainly will miss her. The board thanks her for her excellent service; she will be hard to replace as chair.

The Planning Board has continued to work on a medical marijuana bylaw, considering carefully the extensive state regulations, where they might detract from our historic, rural and residential environments, and where Egremont needs to supplement them with land use regulations of our own. We expect to have a bylaw ready soon for town discussion and vote.

The Select Board and Planning Board are in the process of making an appointment to fill out Janis' term, and we will decide on a new chair and on general board organization at our regular meeting on September 8.

**DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE PARTNERS
WITH EGREMONT TO STREAMLINE TAX
RATE SETTING PROCESS**

13 cities and towns to participate in pilot program designed to improve the municipal tax rate setting process.

EGREMONT – JULY 7, 2014 – The Town of Egremont is among 13 communities across the state to voluntarily partner with the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services (DLS) this year in a new pilot program designed to assist communities in setting their property tax rates before December 1st of 2014.

The DLS Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) will work with municipalities to set their tax rates in November rather than in December in order to reduce the likelihood of last-minute corrections, increase internal efficiencies and improve communication with local residents regarding their tax bills. Currently, the majority of the state's 353 cities and towns and special taxing districts set their rates in the last calendar month of the year. In December of 2013, DLS approved 218 tax rates. In the previous three months, 119 tax rates were approved. Incorporating more time for review and collaboration in what is an involved and deliberate process will benefit the Commonwealth, the municipality and local taxpayers.

"We believe receiving a high volume of tax rate submissions in a month that concludes with a holiday week is not the most efficient way to perform one of our most critical functions," DLS Deputy Commissioner Bob Nunes said.

"By signing onto TAP, Egremont has joined our efforts to change 'business as usual' in the tax rate setting process. The Town's decision to participate is one I greatly appreciate. It is not always an easy decision to try something new, but I believe that working together we can make this program a success. I thank the Town for joining us in this initiative," Nunes said.

Egremont Town Officials are excited to be taking part in this pilot program with the DOR.

For various reasons Egremont has a history of setting its tax rate very late in the season. We look forward to working with the DOR to change our habits and are hopeful that this is a training opportunity for our town officials as well as an opportunity to get information out to our residents in a more timely manner.

Each community in TAP has mapped out a schedule that can deliver a tax rate set before December 1st. As it does with all municipalities, DLS staff will monitor the progress throughout the rate setting process and offer expertise and advice to work through any issues that may arise.

ECO-TIP

Avoid using bleach. It can cause (or trigger) asthma in children; it is corrosive (to skin, metals, stone products); and it is extremely toxic to fish, even in small concentrations.

Friends of Prospect Lake:

Prospect Lake's Special Visitor

There he sat in a tree off the southwestern corner of the lake – a Great Horned Owl. He certainly looked like he had horns. He also managed to look sleepy, menacing, and wise simultaneously. Study his picture a bit, and you'll find yourself grateful that you are not a chipmunk or a mole or a night-traveling rabbit. And sure enough, as you watch him, he does that supremely owl trick – he swivels his head 360°. Shades of Linda Blair and *The Exorcist*! (Thanks to Roger Reed for this knockout photo.)



Other fauna

While not as spectacularly unusual (this sighting is the first and only Horned Owl seen in the neighborhood in recent memory – thanks again to Roger for the picture), plenty of wildlife has been flourishing around the lake this summer. An aerial circus of flycatchers chases bugs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner – swooping and diving over the lakefront. At night there are a couple of *basso profundo* frogs serenading the world. Feeding fish dimple the water daily, while slow trolling boats hunt those same fish.

From helicoptering hummingbirds to hard working herons to soaring eagles and hawks, the bird population seems to be having a good summer. So are the muskrats, one of whom – another first – has blonde fur. And all around the lake gardeners are complaining about the proliferation of rabbits eating their way across yard after yard. The lake in general appears to be flourishing very nicely.

The work – weed control

FoPL had the lake treated for weeds by Lycott Environmental, as usual. We have succeeded in knocking back the invasive Eurasian milfoil and are now focusing on controlling the spread of curly leaf pondweed and tapegrass, with an eye out for algae blooms in case we need to attend to them. The FoPL Board has decided to seek permission from Egremont's ConCom to use a different lake treatment next year, partially to make sure the weeds do not develop resistance to the treatment we've been using, and also to enable treating the lake earlier in the spring, when the water is cooler and the weeds are just beginning to bud.

The organization

FoPL's president, Peter Horsfall, was asked by his company to work in its London office (we wish Peter every success in this venture), so at its July meeting FoPL elected Darya Geetter to fill out Peter's term. Eileen Johnson was elected Vice-President. Marj Wexler remains as Secretary, as does Chet Delaney as Treasurer.

The Board is rounded out by six Directors-at-Large – Joyce Frater, Mark Roggen, Molly Houghton, Bobbie Nussbaum, Nina Deluca, and Bob Lea. Having just completed a successful Tag Sale, the group is now laying plans for its Holiday Cake Sale. These two events make up roughly one-third of FoPL's operating budget. Its membership drive in the spring yielded 67 members, plus a number of donations – sources that furnish another third of our budget. As it has done in the last several years, the Town at its annual Town Meeting voted a generous grant to FoPL in support of its work, the final third of our budget.

Learning the ropes

The FoPL Board intends to undertake an education program for itself over the next several months, seeking options for weed control, networking with other lake associations, searching

out second opinions on what we have done so far in managing a lake, as well as what we might do differently. We will make sure any educational gatherings that we sponsor are open to the general public and announced well in advance to make it onto as many calendars as possible. We'd like to hear any ideas or suggestions concerning such an educational effort, and questions about our programs or our organization are always welcome. Feel free to get in touch with any member of the FoPL Board.

ECO-TIP

MassSaves (www.masssave.com) has 0%-interest loans for qualified energy-efficient home improvements. When you apply for a loan, you'll get free LED light bulbs and programmable thermostats. There are also rebates on Energy Star appliances (www.masssave.com/residential/mass-energy-rebate).

Holiday Trees:

The Fall issue of the Newsletter reminds us that holidays are not too far away.

The Holiday Tree Team will be gearing up for our annual November installation.

If you would like to help, or have questions, please call Susan Bachelder 528 6505.

Berkshire Botanical Gardens:

CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNUAL

HARVEST FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 11th AND 12th Stockbridge, MA...

The Berkshire Botanical Gardens annual Harvest Festival, now in its 80th year, takes place on October 11 and 12 in Stockbridge, MA. The 2014 festival celebrates the joys of autumn with popular family activities, continuous live entertainment, 113 food and craft vendors, educational workshops, a farmers market, silent auction and numerous tag sales, books, furniture, clothing, jewelry and more, as well as a spectacular plant and bulb sale. New this year is our Hall of Pumpkins and the return of our popular Haunted House. In short, the Festival, which is a fundraiser for the Gardens education programs, has become Berkshire Countys most beloved fall tradition.

Berkshire Botanical Gardens Harvest Festival runs from 10am - 5pm both Saturday and Sunday, October 11-12. Admission is \$5 for Adults, free for children under 12. Garden parking is free. Proceeds from the festival, one of the longest running

of its kind, support educational programming at the Garden. A complete list of activities, vendors and entertainment is available through the Gardens website where advance tickets are available for purchase:

<http://www.berkshirebotanical.org>

Meeting schedule:

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon
or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon
& by appointment

Council on Aging - Third Thursday of each month
at 3pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday
8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm, Wednesday
& Thursday 8am to 1pm. Meetings - Thursdays as
posted 9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other
Monday evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to
3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.
Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth
Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm January
through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm &
Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday
7:30pm

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays
6pm Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to
3:00pm

Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm-
8pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon
or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to
1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to
4pm

Water Department - Meetings second Thursday
4:30pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a
message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Prospect Lake Park and Campground -
camping, swimming

413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com

www.prospectlakepark.com

Egremont residents receive a discount to
access the beach.

The Silo B&B - guest accommodations

413-528-5195

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B

1 Prospect Lake Road

413-528-2882

www.innsweetwater.com

The Egremont Village Inn - Lodging & restaurant &
live music

413-528-9580

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant

413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
Restaurant & Lodging

413-528-6200

www.swisshutte.com

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

Robin Walther

116 Egremont Plain Road

413-528-2537

robinschaircaning@gmail.com

Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restoration

413-528-1232

www.howardsantiquelighting.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal
polishing

413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects

195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)

413-528-5383

www.homeasianantiques.com

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern
furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural
and decorative objects.

413-528-0112

www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding

Lessons, summer programs
www.bluerider.org
413-528-5299

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Feature by Feature
By Stanley Farnum

*Though I am old and some battered by time
 And walk the paths I once ran,
 Like most old-timers though the outside has
 changed,
 Inside I'm still the same man.*

*So I smile when the girls, who all seem to like me,
 Often each ask the same sort of thing.
 Hey Stan, now that your nearing a hundred years
 old
 Do you still heat inside or have you turned all
 cold,
 or does a pretty girl make your heart ping.*

*Well I tell them I still love them all but a problem
 I have
 Which will probably make them each really laugh,
 It's that old-timers, know that at last we're all
 done
 With chasing the girls because we have found
 We wouldn't know what to do if we caught one.*

*Now girls I will give a few simple words to
 Consider after the raging fires of youth have
 cooled
 And you come to realize this about old-timers and
 young
 Pretty girls.*

*Feature by feature a girl is a creature
 Who drive many men to distraction,
 But it's not how she looks; it's the way she cooks
 That becomes her final attraction.*

*So girls think of this, when his very first kiss
 States to turn both your knees to jelly.
 In the year that will follow, you'll find that he's
 hollow
 And the way to his heart is his belly.*



*Town of Egremont
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 Staff as submitted by Town Departments.
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